



What's Eating Your Collection?

Hide or leather beetle *Dermestes maculatus*

Adult beetle

Size: 10mm or over

Shape: Oval

Colour: shiny black with white hairs on thorax

Antennae: short, 3 segmented club

Distinguishing features: underside covered in patches of white hairs

Adults eat: very little

Larvae are pests of: dried animal protein, rare in houses and museums. Sometimes used in Natural History Museums to clean skeletons.

Damage is: occasionally tunnels for pupation

Often found: associated with dead rodents and birds in houses. It is also a pest in chicken houses, where it lives in the manure.



Related Objects



Dermestes larva



Dermestes larvae
tunneling in wood



Hide beetle *Dermestes*
haemorrhoidalis



Hide beetle larva
Dermestes sp.



Larder beetle
Dermestes lardarius



Peruvian Hide beetle
Dermestes peruvianus



Two-spot carpet beetle
Attagenus pello